

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a sheet finishing apparatus having a stacking tray for stacking

sheets formed with indicia, a processing tray established in the process to

said stacking tray for receiving said sheets, a movable aligning plate

5 established on said processing tray to traverse in movement the discharge

direction of said sheets for sheet alignment, a binding means for binding

said aligned sheets, the finishing apparatus discharging sheets to a stacking

tray wherein;

the aligning of the last sheet of a plurality of sheets employs a

10 plurality of aligning operations, the first aligning operation having a

distance from the aligning position of said movable aligning plate to the

first aligning operation starting position of L1;

the last aligning operation a distance from the aligning position of

the movable aligning plate to the final aligning operation starting position

of L2, the relationship between the two distances is  $L1 > L2$ .

2. The sheet-sorting apparatus of claim 1 wherein the final nth sheet and when aligning sheets from the first sheet to the  $n - 1$  sheet, a first and a second aligning operation are performed wherein;

5 the distance from the aligning position in the second aligning operation to the aligning start position is L3, the relationships between these distances is  $L1 > L2 > L3$ .